

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a semiconductor laser;

an optical unit which scans a rotational photo
conductor by a laser light output by said semiconductor
10 laser; and

a photodetector which detects the laser light
output by said semiconductor laser at a predetermined
position,

wherein a latent image is formed by scanning
15 said rotational photo conductor based on the laser light
detected by the photodetector,

said image forming apparatus further
comprising:

a high-frequency clock generation circuit;

20 a first frequency divider which generates and
outputs an image clock which synchronized with an output
of said photodetector by dividing a clock output from
the high-frequency clock generation circuit; and

an image clock phase changing circuit which
25 changes a phase of the image clock.

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2. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said high-frequency clock generation circuit comprises:

- a voltage controlled oscillator which controls
- 5 an oscillation frequency of a clock, which is output according to an input signal;
- a second frequency divider which divides the clock oscillated by the voltage controlled oscillator;
- a phase comparator which compares a phase of
- 10 the clock output by the frequency divider with a phase of a frequency of a reference clock so as to output a signal corresponding to a result of the comparison,
- wherein the signal output by the phase comparator is input to said voltage controlled
- 15 oscillator.

20 3. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

- an image data input circuit which inputs image data based on said image clock;
- a modulation pattern generation circuit which
- 25 generates a modulation pattern based on said image data

and the clock output from said high-frequency clock generation means; and

a semiconductor laser control circuit which controls the output of said semiconductor laser based on the modulation pattern generated by the modulation pattern generation means.

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4. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first frequency divider, said image clock phase change circuit, said high-frequency clock generator, said image data input circuit and said modulation pattern generation circuit are constituted by an integrated circuit formed in a single semiconductor chip.

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5. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a frequency dividing ratio setting circuit which sets a frequency dividing ratio by said frequency dividing means by loading from outside.

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6. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a pulse reversal circuit which reverses or forwards a phase of pulses oscillated by said voltage controlled oscillator.

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7. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a frequency dividing operation stop and resumption circuit which stops or resumes an operation of said second frequency divider.

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8. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a semiconductor laser turn-off circuit which switches off said semiconductor laser at a timing which delays the phase of said pixel clock.

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9. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a semiconductor laser;

an optical unit which scans a rotational photo
conductor by a laser light output by said semiconductor

5 laser; and

a photodetector which detects the laser light
output by said semiconductor laser at a predetermined
position,

wherein a latent image is formed by scanning
10 said rotational photo conductor based on the laser light
detected by the photodetector,

said image forming apparatus further
comprising:

a high-frequency clock generation circuit;

15 a frequency divider which generates and
outputs an image clock which synchronized with an output
of said photodetector by dividing a clock output from
the high-frequency clock generation circuit;

an image data input circuit which inputs image
20 data based on said image clock;

a semiconductor laser modulation circuit which
modulates an output of said semiconductor laser based on
a clock output from said high-frequency clock generation
means and the image data which input said image data
25 input means; and

a phase change circuit which changes a timing which said image data input means takes in the image data and a phase of said image clock at the same time.

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10. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said phase change circuit changes the timing for taking in the image data and the phase of the clock of said image clock based on a first synchronous signal at a time of power supply and a turn-off data timing of synchronous signal detection data.

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11. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said phase change circuit changes the timing for taking in the image data and the phase of said image clock for every scanning timing.

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12. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said phase change circuit changes the timing for taking in the image data and the phase of said image clock only at a first line of a page.

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13. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the phase of said image clock is changed when being output, and the timing which said image data input circuit takes in data and a timing which said modulation pattern generating circuit generates a modulation pattern are not changed.

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14. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a semiconductor laser;
scanning means for scanning a rotational photoconductor by a laser light output by said semiconductor laser; and
scanning light detecting means for detecting the laser light output by said semiconductor laser at a

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wherein a latent image is formed by scanning said rotational photo conductor based on the laser light detected by the scanning light detecting means,

high-frequency clock generation means;

image clock phase change means for changing a phase of the image clock.

15. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said high-frequency clock generation means comprises:

frequency dividing means for dividing the

clock oscillated by the voltage controlled oscillator means;

phase comparing means for comparing a phase of the clock output by the frequency dividing means with a
5 phase of a frequency of a reference clock so as to output a signal corresponding to a result of the comparison,

wherein the signal output by the phase comparing means is input to said voltage controlled
10 oscillator means.

16. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
15 claim 14, further comprising:

image data input means for inputting image data based on said image clock;

modulation pattern generation means for generating a modulation pattern based on said image data
20 and the clock output from said high-frequency clock generation means; and

semiconductor laser control means for controlling the output of said semiconductor laser based on the modulation pattern generated by the modulation
25 pattern generation means.

17. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 16, wherein said image clock output means, said
image clock phase change means, said high-frequency
clock generator means, said image data input means and
5 said modulation pattern generation means are constituted
by an integrated circuit formed in a single
semiconductor chip.

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18. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 17, further comprising frequency dividing ratio
setting means for setting a frequency dividing ratio by
15 said frequency dividing means by loading from outside.

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19. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 17, further comprising pulse reversal means for
reversing or forwarding a phase of pulses oscillated by
said voltage controlled oscillator means.

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20. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising frequency dividing operation stop and resumption means for stopping or resuming an operation of said frequency divider.

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21. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising semiconductor laser turn-off means for switching off said semiconductor laser at a timing which delays the phase of said pixel clock.

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22. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a semiconductor laser;
scanning means for scanning a rotational photoconductor by a laser light output by said semiconductor laser; and

scanning light detecting means for detecting the laser light output by said semiconductor laser at a predetermined position,
wherein a latent image is formed by scanning

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said rotational photo conductor based on the laser light detected by the scanning light detecting means,

said image forming apparatus further comprising:

5 high-frequency clock generation means;

image clock output means for generating and outputting an image clock which synchronized with a timing detected by said scanning light detecting means by dividing a clock from said high-frequency clock

10 generation means;

image data input means for inputting image data based on said image clock;

semiconductor laser modulation means for modulating an output of said semiconductor laser based
15 on a clock output from said high-frequency clock generation means and the image data which input said image data input means; and

phase change means for changing a timing, which said image data input means takes in the image
20 data, and a phase of said image clock at the same time.

23. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 22, wherein said phase change means changes the
timing for taking in the image data and the phase of the
clock of said image clock based on a first synchronous
5 signal at a time of power supply and a turn-off data
timing of synchronous signal detection data.

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24. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 22, wherein said phase change means changes the
timing for taking in the image data and the phase of
said image clock for every scanning timing.

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25. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
20 claim 22, wherein said phase change means changes the
timing for taking in the image data and the phase of
said image clock only at a first line of a page.

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26. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 9, wherein the phase of said image clock is
changed when being output, and the timing which said
image data input means takes in data and a timing which
5 said modulation pattern generating means generates a
modulation pattern are not changed.

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27. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning unit which scans a
plurality of light fluxes on a medium to be scanned, the
light fluxes being synchronous with an output pixel
15 clock and being modulated in accordance with image data
of a respective one of a plurality of lines; and

a clock phase control circuit which controls a
phase of said output pixel clock for each of said lines
so as to correct a shift in a write start position in a
20 scanning direction due to a shift in a position of each
light-emitting point of said plurality of light fluxes.

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28. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said clock phase control circuit comprises:

a high-frequency clock generator;

5 a first frequency divider which generates said output pixel clock by dividing an output of said high-frequency clock generator, the first frequency divider having a circuit which can change a phase of said output pixel clock;

10 a phase change circuit which changes a phase of said first frequency divider; and

a second frequency divider which generates an internal clock by dividing an output of said high-frequency clock generator, the second frequency divider
15 having a circuit which can change a phase of said internal clock.

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29. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said high-frequency clock generator is constituted by a PLL circuit comprising: a voltage controlled oscillator circuit; a programmable counter
25 which divides an output of said voltage controlled

oscillator circuit; and a phase comparator circuit which compares phases of an output of said programmable counter and a reference frequency, wherein said first frequency divider generates said output pixel clock by
5 dividing an output of said voltage controlled oscillator circuit and a phase of said output pixel clock is synchronized with a phase synchronous signal.

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30. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a modulation pattern generating circuit which generates a modulation pattern
15 by which an optimum exposure energy is obtained based on the image data in synchronization with said output pixel clock.

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31. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said modulation pattern generating circuit can change a phase of the output pixel clock for
25 each of a plurality of lines.

32. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 31, wherein said first frequency divider, said
phase change circuit, said PLL circuit and said
modulation pattern generating circuit are formed in a
5 single integrated circuit.

10 33. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 32, wherein said integrated circuit further
comprises a semiconductor laser modulation drive circuit.

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34. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning unit which scans a
plurality of light fluxes on a medium to be scanned, the
20 light fluxes being synchronous with an output pixel
clock and being modulated in accordance with image data
of a respective one of a plurality of lines; and
clock phase control means for controlling a
phase of said output pixel clock for each of said lines
25 so as to correct a shift in a write start position in a

scanning direction due to a shift in a position of each light-emitting point of said plurality of light fluxes.

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35. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said clock phase control means comprises:

- 10 high-frequency clock generator means;
 a first frequency dividing means for
generating said output pixel clock by dividing an output
of said high-frequency clock generator means, the first
frequency dividing means having means for changing a
15 phase of said output pixel clock;
 phase change means for changing a phase of
said first frequency dividing means; and
 second frequency dividing means for generating
an internal clock by dividing an output of said high-
20 frequency clock generator, the second frequency dividing
means having means for changing a phase of said internal
clock.

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35. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning unit which scans a
plurality of light fluxes on a medium to be scanned by
deflecting the light fluxes by a deflector, the light
5 fluxes being synchronous with an output pixel clock and
being modulated in accordance with image data of a
respective one of a plurality of lines; and
a clock phase control circuit which controls a
phase of said output pixel clock for each of a plurality
10 of deflecting surfaces of said deflector so as to
correct a fluctuation in a scanning length corresponding
to the plurality of deflecting surfaces.

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36. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 35, wherein said clock phase control circuit
comprises:

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a high-frequency clock generator;

a first frequency divider which generates said
output pixel clock by dividing an output of said high-
frequency clock generator, the first frequency divider
having a circuit which can change a phase of said output
25 pixel clock;

a phase change circuit which changes a phase of said first frequency divider; and

a second frequency divider which generates an internal clock by dividing an output of said high-frequency clock generator, the second frequency divider having a circuit which can change a phase of said internal clock.

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37. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said high-frequency clock generator is constituted by a PLL circuit comprising: a voltage controlled oscillator circuit; a programmable counter which divides an output of said voltage controlled oscillator circuit; and a phase comparator circuit which compares phases of an output of said programmable counter and a reference frequency, wherein said first frequency divider generates said output pixel clock by dividing an output of said voltage controlled oscillator circuit and a phase of said output pixel clock is synchronized with a phase synchronous signal.

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38. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 37, further comprising a modulation pattern
generating circuit which generates a modulation pattern
by which an optimum exposure energy is obtained based on
5 the image data in synchronization with said output pixel
clock.

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39. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 38, wherein said modulation pattern generating
circuit can change a phase of the output pixel clock for
each of a plurality of lines.

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40. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
20 claim 39, wherein said first frequency divider, said
phase change circuit, said PLL circuit and said
modulation pattern generating circuit are formed in a
single integrated circuit.

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41. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said integrated circuit further comprises a semiconductor laser modulation drive circuit.

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42. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning unit which scans a

10 plurality of light fluxes on a medium to be scanned by deflecting the light fluxes by a deflector, the light fluxes being synchronous with an output pixel clock and being modulated in accordance with image data of a respective one of a plurality of lines; and
15 clock phase control means for controlling a phase of said output pixel clock for each of a plurality of deflecting surfaces of said deflector so as to correct a fluctuation in a scanning length corresponding to the plurality of deflecting surfaces.

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43. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein said clock phase control means

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comprises:

high-frequency clock generator means;

first frequency dividing means for generating
said output pixel clock by dividing an output of said

5 high-frequency clock generator means, the first
frequency dividing means having means for changing a
phase of said output pixel clock;

phase change means for changing a phase of
said first frequency dividing means; and

10 second frequency dividing means for generating
an internal clock by dividing an output of said high-
frequency clock generator means, the second frequency
dividing means having means for changing a phase of said
internal clock.

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